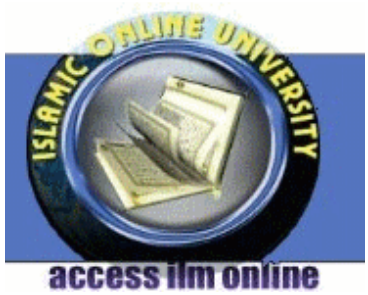

Islamic Online University

Explanation of the Six Pillars of Faith

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Notes based on Sharh Usool Al-Emaan by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaimeen

Module 5

Fourth: Belief in Allah's Worship (Uloohiyyah)

It is the belief that Allah (ﷻ) Alone is the true Ilaah (God) who has no partner or associate. The Ilaah means Al-Ma'looh i.e. Al-Ma'bood, the only true God who deserves to be worshipped out of love and magnification. Allah (ﷻ) said:

وَإِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَٰحِدٌ ۖ لَّآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنُ ٱلرَّحِيمُ ﴿١٦٣﴾

"And your Ilaah is one Ilaah, La Ilaaha illa Huwa (there is no true God worthy of worship but He), the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful."[1]

He (ﷻ) also said:

شَهِدَ ٱللَّهُ أَنَّهُۥ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ وَأُو۟لُوا۟ ٱلْعِلْمِ قَآئِمًۢا بِٱلْقِسْطِ ۚ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ٱلْعَزِيزُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ ﴿١٨﴾

"Allah bears witness that La Ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), and the angels, and those having knowledge (also give this witness); (He is always) maintaining His creation in Justice. La Ilaaha illa Huwa, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise."[2]

All that is being taken as an Ilaah worshipped as god besides Allah (ﷻ), its Uloohiyyah is false. Allah (ﷻ) says:

ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ ٱللَّهَ هُوَ ٱلْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِۦ هُوَ ٱلْبَٰطِلُ وَأَنَّ ٱللَّهَ هُوَ ٱلْعَلِىُّ ٱلْكَبِيرُ ﴿٦٢﴾

"That is because Allah - He is the Truth (the only True God of all that exists, Who has no partners or rivals with Him), and those besides Him whom they (the polytheists) invoke - they are but Baatil (vain Falsehood). And verily, Allah, - He is the Most High, the Most Great."[3]

Calling them aaliha (gods) does not entitle them to the right of Uloohiyyah. Allah (ﷻ) said describing the pagan deities of Al-Laat, Al-'Uzzaa, and Minaat that:

[1] *Soorah* Al-Baqarah 2:163
[2] *Soorah* Aal-'Imran 3:18
[3] *Soorah* Al-Hajj 22:62

إِنْ هِيَ إِلَّآ أَسْمَآءٌ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَآ أَنتُمْ وَءَابَآؤُكُم مَّآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَٰنٍ ۚ

"They are but names which you have named, - you and your fathers, - for which Allah sent down no authority."[4]

He [Allah (ﷻ)] told us that Yoosuf (عليه السلام) said to his two companions of the jail:

يَٰصَٰحِبَيِ ٱلسِّجْنِ ءَأَرْبَابٌ مُّتَفَرِّقُونَ خَيْرٌ أَمِ ٱللَّهُ ٱلْوَٰحِدُ ٱلْقَهَّارُ ﴿٣٩﴾ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِهِۦٓ إِلَّآ أَسْمَآءً سَمَّيْتُمُوهَآ أَنتُمْ وَءَابَآؤُكُم مَّآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَٰنٍ ۚ

"O two companions of the prisons! Are many different arbaab (lords) better or Allah, the One, Al-Qahhaar?[5] You don't worship besides Him but only names which you have named (forged), you and your fathers, for which Allah has sent down no authority."[6]

For this reason, the Messengers, may the Salaat and Salaam of Allah (ﷻ) be upon them, used to say to their respective nations:

ٱعْبُدُوا۟ ٱللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُۥ

"Worship Allah! You have no other Ilaah (God) but Him."[7]

The Mushrikeen, however, refused and set up gods as rivals to Allah (ﷻ), worshipping them besides Allah (ﷻ), and seeking their support and help. Allah (ﷻ) invalidated their acts by two proofs:

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[4] *Soorah* An-Najm 53:23.

Allah (ﷻ) said that Hood (عليه السلام) told his people:

أَتُجَٰدِلُونَنِى فِىٓ أَسْمَآءٍ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَآ أَنتُمْ وَءَابَآؤُكُم مَّا نَزَّلَ ٱللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَٰنٍ ۚ

"Dispute you with me over names which you have named - you and your fathers, with no authority from Allah?" [*Soorah* Al-A'raf 7:71]

[5] Allah (ﷻ) is Al-Qahhaar: He subdued all creatures and all the elements of the loftiest and lowest worlds; nothing occurs or moves without His Permission. Everything of His Creation is in need of Him. His Irresistibility is linked to His Perfect Living, Power, and Ability. [Translator]

[6] *Soorah* Yusuf 12:39-40

[7] *Soorah* Al-A'raf 7:59, 60, 73, 85; *Soorah* Hud 11:50, 61, 84; and *Soorah* Al-Mu'minun 23:23, 32

First: There is not any Divine Quality in the gods they worshipped besides Allah (ﷻ). These gods are created and cannot create and extend neither benefit to their worshippers nor can ward off harm from them; they can neither give them life, nor cause their death; they possess nothing from the heavens and have no share in it. Allah (ﷻ) said:

وَٱتَّخَذُواْ مِن دُونِهِۦٓ ءَالِهَةً لَّا يَخۡلُقُونَ شَيۡـٔٗا وَهُمۡ يُخۡلَقُونَ وَلَا يَمۡلِكُونَ لِأَنفُسِهِمۡ ضَرّٗا وَلَا نَفۡعٗا وَلَا يَمۡلِكُونَ مَوۡتٗا وَلَا حَيَوٰةٗ وَلَا نُشُورٗا ﴿٣﴾

"They have taken besides Him other gods that created nothing but are themselves created, and possess neither hurt nor benefit to themselves, and possess no power (of causing) death, not (of giving) life, nor of raising the dead."[8]

Allah (ﷻ) also said:

قُلِ ٱدۡعُواْ ٱلَّذِينَ زَعَمۡتُم مِّن دُونِ ٱللَّهِۖ لَا يَمۡلِكُونَ مِثۡقَالَ ذَرَّةٖ فِي ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَلَا فِي ٱلۡأَرۡضِ وَمَا لَهُمۡ فِيهِمَا مِن شِرۡكٖ وَمَا لَهُۥ مِنۡهُم مِّن ظَهِيرٖ ﴿٢٢﴾ وَلَا تَنفَعُ ٱلشَّفَٰعَةُ عِندَهُۥٓ إِلَّا لِمَنۡ أَذِنَ لَهُۥۚ

"Say: (O Muhammad (ﷺ) to those polytheists, pagans, etc.) 'Call upon those whom you asset (to be associate gods) besides Allah, they possess not even the weight of a small ant, - either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor there is for Him any supporter from among them. Intercession with Him profits not, except for him Whom He permits.' "[9]

أَيُشۡرِكُونَ مَا لَا يَخۡلُقُ شَيۡـٔٗا وَهُمۡ يُخۡلَقُونَ ﴿١٩١﴾ وَلَا يَسۡتَطِيعُونَ لَهُمۡ نَصۡرٗا وَلَآ أَنفُسَهُمۡ يَنصُرُونَ ﴿١٩٢﴾

"Do they attribute as partners to Allah those who created nothing but they themselves are created? No help can they give them, nor can they help themselves."[10]

[8] *Soorah* Al-Furqan 25:3
[9] *Soorah* Saba' 34:22-23
[10] *Soorah* Al-A'raf 7:191-192

If this is the situation with those gods, then worshipping them as gods besides Allah (ﷻ) is the utmost of foolishness and falsehood.

Second: Those Mushrikeen used to confess that Allah (ﷻ) Alone is Ar-Rabb Al-Khaaliq (the Creator) in Whose Hand is the Sovereignty of everything and He protects (all), while against Whom these is no protector.[11]

This (confession) necessitates that they should have attested that He is the Only True Ilaah worthy of worship (Uloohiyyah) as they have done with His Ruboobiyyah (when they took Him as their only true Rabb). In this regard Allah (ﷻ) said:

يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ٱعْبُدُوا۟ رَبَّكُمُ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَكُمْ وَٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾ ٱلَّذِى
جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلْأَرْضَ فِرَٰشًا وَٱلسَّمَآءَ بِنَآءً وَأَنزَلَ مِنَ ٱلسَّمَآءِ مَآءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِۦ مِنَ ٱلثَّمَرَٰتِ
رِزْقًا لَّكُمْ ۖ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا۟ لِلَّهِ أَندَادًا وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

"O mankind! Worship your Rabb (Allah), Who created you and those before you so that you may become pious. Who has made the earth a resting place and the sky as a canopy, and sent down rain from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you. Then do not set up rivals unto Allah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped)."[12]

He (ﷻ) also said:

وَلَئِن سَأَلْتَهُم مَّنْ خَلَقَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ ٱللَّهُ ۖ فَأَنَّىٰ يُؤْفَكُونَ ﴿٨٧﴾

"And if you ask them who created them, they will surely say: 'Allah.' How then are they turned away (from the worship of Allah, Who created them)?"[13]

[11] If Allah (ﷻ) saves anyone none can punish or harm him, and if Allah (ﷻ) punishes or harms anyone none can save him. See Translation of the Meaning of the Noble Qur'aan by Al-Hilaalee and Khaan, Soorah Al-Mu'minoon, Aayah 88, page 534, quoting from Tafseer Al-Qurtubee, Volume 12, page 145.
[12] *Soorah* Al-Baqarah 2:21-22
[13] *Soorah* Al-Ahzab 43:87

قُلۡ مَن يَرۡزُقُكُم مِّنَ ٱلسَّمَآءِ وَٱلۡأَرۡضِ أَمَّن يَمۡلِكُ ٱلسَّمۡعَ وَٱلۡأَبۡصَٰرَ وَمَن يُخۡرِجُ ٱلۡحَيَّ مِنَ ٱلۡمَيِّتِ وَيُخۡرِجُ ٱلۡمَيِّتَ مِنَ ٱلۡحَيِّ وَمَن يُدَبِّرُ ٱلۡأَمۡرَۚ فَسَيَقُولُونَ ٱللَّهُۚ فَقُلۡ أَفَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٣١﴾ فَذَٰلِكُمُ ٱللَّهُ رَبُّكُمُ ٱلۡحَقُّۖ فَمَاذَا بَعۡدَ ٱلۡحَقِّ إِلَّا ٱلضَّلَٰلُۖ فَأَنَّىٰ تُصۡرَفُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

"Say: Who provides for you from the sky and from the earth? Or Who owns hearing and sight? And Who brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living? And Who disposes the affairs? They will say: 'Allah.' Will you not then be afraid of Allah's Punishment (for worshipping other than Him)? Such is Allah, you Rabb, in truth. So, apart from Truth, what (remains) but error? So, how then you are turned away?"[14]

[14] *Soorah* Yunus 10:31-32